1. (AMENDED) A compound of the formula:

$$\begin{array}{c|c} & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & \\ & & & \\ & &$$

wherein R¹ is phosphono, dialkoxy-phosphoryl, O-alkyl-phosphono, diaminophosphoryl, (amino)(hydroxy)phosphoryl, (alkoxy)(morpholino)phosphoryl or dihalophosphoryl;

 R^2 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{3-5} cycloalkyl group;

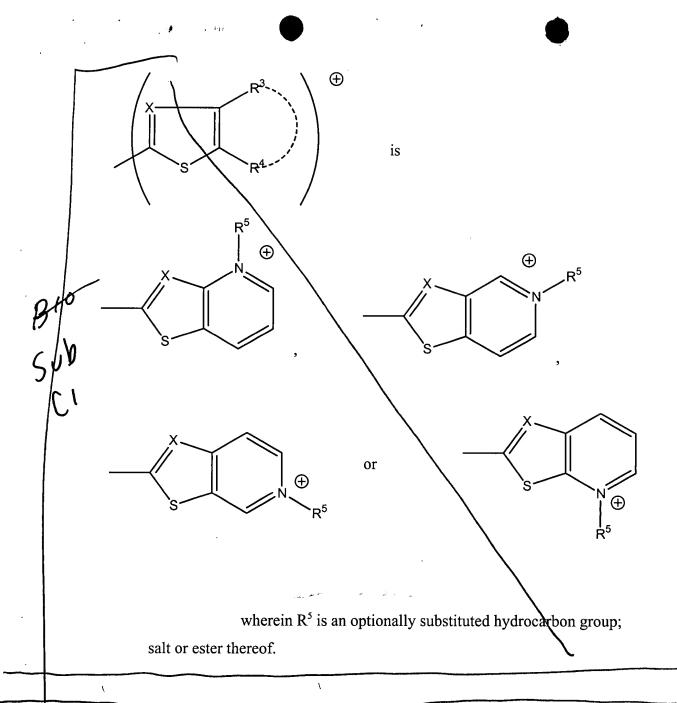
each of Q and X is a nitrogen atom or CH;

Y is S;

n is 0 or 1;

one of R³ and R⁴ is a pyridinium group which may be substituted and the other is a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group which may be substituted, or R³ and R⁴ taken together may form a quaternized nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring which may be substituted,

wherein when R3 and R4 are taken together, the group of the formula



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(TWICE AMENDED) 7 β -[2(Z)-ethoxyimino-2-(5-phosphonoamino-1,2,4-thiadiazole-3-yl)acetamido]-3-[4-(1-methyl-4-pyridinio)-2-thiazolylthio]-3-cephem-4-carboxylate, its ester or its salt.

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21.7 (TWICE AMENDED) A method for producing a pharmaceutical composition comprising

mixing a compound of claim 1 with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or bulking agent.

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(NEW) A pharmaceutical composition containing the compound of claim 12 and at least one of pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, diluents and bulking agents.

(NEW) A method for producing a pharmaceutical composition comprising mixing a compound of claim 12 with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or bulking agent.

(NEW) A method for treating a bacterial infection which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim. It to a patient suffering from the bacterial infection.

(NEW) A method for treating a bacterial infection which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 12 together with at least one of pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, diluents and excipients to a patient suffering from the bacterial infection.

(NEW) A method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the bacterial infection is a MRSA infection.

34. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 34, wherein the compound is administered by injection.

35. (NEW) 7β-[2(Z)-ethoxyimino-2-(5-phosphonoamino-1,2,4-thiadiazole-3-yl)acetamido]-3-[4-(1-methyl-4-pyridinio)-2-thiazolylthio]-3-cephem-4-carboxylate.

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